

# MMCS Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 pm  
August 9, 2021  
255 S. May Street  
Southern Pines, NC 28387

In attendance: Katie Rucker, Ben Greene, Ronda Hawkins, Paul Murphy, Rocky Rhodes, Debra Gray, Dave Kilarski, and Taylor Clement

1. Call to Order at 6:01 and the school's mission read by Ben.
2. Public Comment: Ms. Wambles, owner of Timbernook and licensed Occupational Therapist spoke regarding the potential mask mandate and the use of outdoor space to accommodate additional time without masks.

### 3. Updates

A. General School Updates: Move in started today with volunteers and was well attended; families are excited about campus and new classrooms.

We have hired 8 of 10 new people needed and now are at 33 which is a huge accomplishment given the challenges of hiring in the current environment.

B. Financial Updates: We are applying for an emergency technology grant which would fund 100% of devices needed for students to complete any required learning at home requirements.

C. New Campus Updates: There are still some improvements needed prior to move-in (water filtration, air conditioning.) Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the May Street building and the Fire Marshall needs to address minor issues in other buildings.

Katie discussed the Open House, invitation and document for invitation list which we can all add to at our convenience.

### 4. Board Action

A. Approval of Minutes: Paul moved to approve minutes for July 19th, July 25th Board Meeting with the noted changes from Ronda, Ronda seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

B. COVID Protocols: Ben introduced recent data from CDC and NCDHHS regarding

masking policy and made a motion to approve the policy as presented in the board materials, without a second the motion fell to the floor. Taylor made a motion to approve the use of masking indoors but have no masks required outside and suggested the teachers should look for more opportunities to move educational time outside, Rocky seconded the motion. Debra added to review CDC guidance on a regular basis and Rocky suggested it become a regular agenda item until resolved. Board discussed the challenges with Covid and safety measures for our school community. Ultimately the use of indoor masking can prevent large group quarantines and keep children in school more often. Five of the board members voted in favor, one person absended, and the motion carried.

C. Review of 21/22 Family Handbook: Katie said we will update the sections regarding masking to reflect the board's vote. Debra voted to approve it with noted changes, Dave seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

D. Review of 21/22 Staff Handbook: Ronda suggested we update the mileage reimbursement to follow current IRS guidelines (currently at \$0.56/mile but policy language should say "current IRS guidelines"). Regarding Teacher leave to care for a quarantining child: There is no updated policy since the repeal of the Family Leave Act regarding parent absence due to a child quarantining; the school will need to review the process as needed. Dave suggested looking to other companies to see their policies. Rocky moved to approve the Staff Handbook with updates to mask policy as needed to reflect the board's vote, Dave seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

E. Resolution on second loan with First Bank, to cover campus improvements needs to be updated to reflect Ben Greene and Taylor Clement as signers. Rocky moved to approve the resolution to borrow with revision back to Ben and Taylor to sign, Paul seconded and all voted in favor.

F. Review HVAC Service Valve Proposal: Rocky voted to approve the contract as presented. The board discussed the contract, cost and school's current needs. Debra seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

5. Closed Session: Rocky moved to enter closed session to consider employee contracts and other contract negotiations.

The board entered closed session at approximately 7:40pm.

The board returned to open session at 8:01pm.

Action after closed session: Dave moved to approve employee contracts for Gail Bowen and Ana Townsend. Ronda seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

Rental Requests for the auditorium space are Sept 24th, Nov 14 or 17th Author Events

with the Country Bookshop and Oct 1st Event for the Arts Council. Debra moved to approve a rental fee schedule of \$600 per event with an additional \$150 cleaning fee, \$25 per hour to cover an MMCS employee required to be present and a \$200 discount for nonprofit organizations to use the space for these rental dates. Rocky seconded and the motion carried.

6. Adjournment: Ronda moved to adjourn the meeting, Paul seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.